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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/679,262	RHOADS, GEOFFREY B.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mark Fadok	3625
The MAILING DATE of this communication appearance All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RI of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313	(OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this or other appropriate communica GHTS. This application is subje	application. If not included
1. This communication is responsive to <u>Appeal Brief filed 1/24</u>	4/2005 and amendment filed 4/2	<u>8/2005</u> .
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-5</u> .		
3. \square The drawings filed on <u>28 April 2005</u> are accepted by the Ex	kaminer.	
 4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority una) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the: 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: 	been received. been received in Application No)
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONM THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.	of this communication to file a re ENT of this application.	ply complying with the requirements
5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submit INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which give	itted. Note the attached EXAMINes reason(s) why the oath or dec	ER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF laration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") mus	t be submitted.	
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftspers		TO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date		
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Paper No./Mail Date	Amendment / Comment or in the	e Office action of
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1. each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the	84(c)) should be written on the dra ne header according to 37 CFR 1.1	awings in the front (not the back) of 21(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT I	SIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIA FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOG	L must be submitted. Note the GICAL MATERIAL.
Attachment(s) 1. ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. ☑ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/06 Paper No./Mail Date 4/28/2005 4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	6. ⊠ Interview Summa Paper No./Mail 8), 7. □ Examiner's Ame	Date <u>4/28/2005</u> .

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DETAILED ACTION

Notice of Allowance

The examiner is in receipt of appeal brief filed 1/24/2005 and amendment filed 4/28/2005. Acknowledgment is made to the cancellation of claims 6-13, the amendment to specification and the submittal of new drawings. The applicant's amendment was carefully considered and was found to be persuasive, therefore the following reasons for allowance follows:



Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1-5 are allowable.

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance for independent claim 1.

As is claimed in a previous patent to the Assignee (US) 6,324,573, the instant claims are an obvious variation of the previous claimed invention. The current claim is a method for steganographically embedding information within a data object on a second computer (optically sensing the encoded data) and establishing a link to a first computer so the information can be utilized (merchant).

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Independent claims 1 identifies the uniquely distinct feature as follows:

Claim 1:

the image is steganographically encoded optically sensing the image to produce image data electronically ordering the article from the merchant by use of the decoded data

Discussion of most relevant art:

US Patents and PG-PUB

- (i) US Patent 6,199,048 to Hudetz et al discloses a method for retrieving URL information using barcodes from an independent database. Hudetz et al, however fails to anticipate or render the application's above-mentioned limitation(s) obvious.
- (ii) US Patent 5,621,810 to Suzuki et al discloses a method for preventing copying by optically sensing a watermark. Suzuki et al, however fails to anticipate or render the application's above-mentioned limitation(s) obvious.

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Foreign Patent Documents

(iii) JP 6-102797 teaches a device for image acquisition utilizing a scanner with a processor for steganographic encoding image data generated corresponding to physical subject having auxiliary data. This patent however, fails to anticipate or render the application's above-mentioned limitation(s) obvious.

Non-Patent Literature

- (iv) Framingham, Network World, OLE-based image management software cuts time, cost, Feb 8, 1993 teaches accessing information that is hidden in a electronic document, Framington, however fails to anticipate or render the application's abovementioned limitation(s) obvious.
- (iv) Framingham, Network World, Watermark building image in network applications market. September 13, 1993, teaches accessing information that is hidden in an electronic document, Framington, however fails to anticipate or render the application's above-mentioned limitation(s) obvious.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Mark Fadok** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-6755**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Wynn Coggins** can be reached on (571) 272-7159.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **receptionist** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-3600**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306

[Official communications; including

After Final communications labeled

"Box AF"]

(571) 273-6755

[Informal/Draft communications, labeled

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"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Mark Fadok

Patent Examiner